

NEW SALEM NEWS – January Newsletter

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January 13	Teens and Tweens at the Library
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New Salem General Store 20th Anniversary

We are celebrating our 20 year celebration on Saturday, January 16th from noon to 4:00 pm. and would like it very much if you could stop by and celebrate with us. We have now joined some of our local partners like Dean's Bean's, WJDF, Berkshire Brewing and Wachusett Brewing Company in reaching the 20-year mark. We are grateful to you, our customers, friends and community for supporting us these last twenty years and making us part of your family. We enjoy the chats over morning coffee, getting to know your children when you stop in for a snack or Friday night pizza. We are proud to be part of the community and are excited to have you celebrate our twenty years with us. We are going to have some great food, tastings, giveaways and more surprises as we come together to celebrate. Vendors have donated some great items for our giveaways including a snow board! We will have an entry box for giveaways from now until January 16th so customers can enter daily for chances to win one of the great gifts that will be drawn on the 16th! Please save the date!

As a note - we have created our newest Scotch ale in collaboration with Lefty's Brewing Company to celebrate this milestone. This ale is the longest bourbon-aged batch in our annual series and is sure to be worth the wait. It will be available on January 16th - try it while you can, it won't be around forever!

New Salem Library News

Lego Club: The Lego Club will be on Saturday, January 9th from 12:30-2:00 pm.

Pizza and Pages: We're looking to revitalize Pizza and Pages. Do you enjoy reading? Would you rather have a monthly writing group? Let me know! Call 978-544-6334.

Teens and Tweens: The Teens and Tweens program runs from 1:30 to 5:30. The library is not open before that time and there is no one there to let kids in, even when the schools dismiss early. In January we're having Mara Bright is back by popular demand. Come join us! January 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at 3:00 pm for her writing program.

Book Discussion Group: On Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00 pm, the Book Discussion Group *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

Friends of New Salem Library News

Reading Aloud for Grownups: The 2015 season begins with readings by Lisa Finestone and Dorothy Johnson on January 13th at 7:30 pm. Wine and cheese will be offered this year as well as the usual goodies and coffee and tea. The rest of the schedule follows:

Wednesday, February 10th: Janet and Bo Henderson.

Wednesday, March 9th: Dee Waterman and Dick Trousdell

Wednesday, April 13th: Genie Casey and Monica Winters

Snow dates for each of these events will be one week later than original date.

Programs: The Friends of The New Salem Public Library have a lot of great programs coming up including:

Thursday February 25th: *Fashion and Fiction* at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, March 31st: *Weird Massachusetts* at the Swift River School at 7:00 pm.

Thursday May 5th: *Feasting in Literature* at the New Salem Town Hall at 7:00 pm.

Council on Aging News

Lunch: On Friday, January 8th, we will meet at the Stowell Building at 10:00 am for Bingo and visiting with a pizza lunch to follow at noon. Lunch will cost \$6 and will include pizza, salad, and a drink. Please contact Hendra Reidy (978-544-2178) to sign up. The snow date will be the following Friday.

Busy B's: Busy B's continue to meet on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Stowell Building. Bring you project, mending, or just a tea cup. If the weather does not look good, we may not meet. You can call Judy Jewett (978-544-2216) to be sure.

Prayer Shawl Ministry of New Salem.

Please join the Prayer Shawl Ministry of New Salem. The shawls that are made are donated with love and blessings to lift up members of our community. These people may be undergoing medical procedures; need comfort after a loss or in times of stress; during an illness or recovery or for a variety of other reasons. There are several ways in which you can take part in the prayer shawl ministry.

You can:

- make and donate a handmade shawl (crocheted or knitted)
- donate money to buy yarn
- donate yarn
- make cards that are attached to the shawl
- make labels with care instructions
- you can also let the ministry know of a person who might benefit from receiving a shawl

We gather in the Stowell Building from 9:00-11:00 am on 4th Friday morning of the month - January 22nd; February 26th; March 25th; and April 22nd. If there is a snow storm, the meeting will likely be cancelled. For more information about the Prayer Shawl Ministry: <http://www.shawlministry.com>

TOWN NOTICES

FY2016 Real Estate and Personal Property 3rd Quarter Tax Bills Due

The 3rd and 4th quarter Fiscal Year 2016 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills were mailed out on December 30. This is to remind you that FY2016 3rd Quarter Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are now due and payable. The due date for the 3rd quarter's bills is February 1, 2016. Payments received after that date will be charged interest and fees.

If you have questions regarding your bill you may call (978) 544-5775 and leave a message stating your name, phone number and the address of your property. You may also email your request for information to newsalemtax@aol.com. Questions regarding the assessed value of your property, abatements or exemptions should be directed to the Assessors at (978) 544-5814.

Non-cash payments may be deposited in the tax payment drop box located in front of the town hall or mailed to the Tax Collector's office at 24 S. Main St., New Salem, MA 01355. Payments may also be scheduled or paid online at www.unitaxonline.com. Cash payments (exact change only, please) may be made during the Tax Collector's office hours at 24 S. Main Street on Tuesdays 5-7pm and Thursdays 10am-Noon.

Assessment information and abatement forms can be found on the Assessors or Tax Collector pages at the town website at www.newsalem-massachusetts.org.

Board of Health January Hours

In January, the Board of Health will be open from 9:00 am to noon on the following days: Thursday, January 7; Tuesday, January 12; Thursday, January 21; Tuesday, January 26.

Board of Assessors Seeks Two Replacements

The Board of Assessors is seeking two replacements: one for the pending retirement of chair, Phyllis Stever, who has served for ten years, and the other for the previously open slot. It is required that the board have three members, however a board of two members meets the minimum requirement for a quorum. The pending departure of Phyllis will leave the board (and the town) in a predicament where, **with only one assessor, we cannot legally function, sign paperwork required by the state, and allow the town to operate.** The board meets twice monthly (2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.) through most of the year and meetings are normally under two hours in length. There is a stipend for board members. Please call our office at 978-544-5814, if you are a town resident and are interested in joining the board.

Personnel Committee

Due to a recent resignation, the Personnel Committee is looking for a new member. Contact Nancy Aldrich at 978-544-6437 if you are interested.

Website Committee

The New Salem Website committee is down to two active members and needs additional volunteers. Please contact Mary-Ellen Kennedy at 978-821-2597 or Nancy Aldrich at 978-544-6437 if you are interested.

Energy Committee

The New Salem Energy Committee is on a hiatus as only two members remain. They are now working with Wendell on grants for energy upgrades at Swift River School. The Town of Wendell has suggested working with New Salem on "Solarize Mass" which provides group rates on multiple solar installations. Please contact Nancy Aldrich at 978-544-6437 if you are interested in working with the Energy Committee.

Selectboard News

Selectboard Meetings: The Selectboard normally meets at 7:00 pm. on every other Monday at the Stowell Building. If the Monday is a holiday, the Selectboard meet on the Tuesday of that week. To verify a meeting date, contact the Town Coordinator at 544-6437.

LOCAL

Active Bystander Training

Training Active Bystanders (TAB) encourages bystanders to take leadership and action when they witness injustice or harm doing. TAB develops skills to break cycles of harm, to stand up for what's right, and to strengthen our empathy and moral courage. Since 2007, when Quabbin Mediation (based in Orange, MA) created TAB, 1,500 (mostly high school) TAB trainers have taught the 6-unit curriculum to 15,000 youth and adults in central and western Mass.

We are seeking new community and school sites where TAB Instructors can teach TAB Trainers who then teach the program to their peers. And we are looking for people who want to be TAB Instructors. Stipends are available for Instructors who carry out trainings for trainers and for people who secure new TAB sites in Mass.

Interested in learning more about TAB? We're hosting a free training in Northampton on January 13 from 9-3. On February 15 we'll be offering a follow-up Instructor Training. A training could also be arranged for your site if that suits your needs.

For more information and to sign up, call Quabbin Mediation at (978) 544-6142 or toll free (888) 924-2600 and ask for Sharon Tracy, Susan Wallace or Diana Clarke. Reach us by email: info@quabbinmediation.org; visit the website:

www.TrainingActiveBystanders.org.

Stop the Pipeline March

There will be a rolling Stop the Kinder Morgan Pipeline March over Martin Luther King weekend on January 16-18th. The walk will proceed from the proposed compressor station site on Gulf Road in Northfield to the proposed construction yard in Plainfield.

The route will pass through Northfield, Erving, Montague, Greenfield, Deerfield, Conway, Ashfield and Plainfield. Join for as long or as little as you wish. Hospitality will be provided for meals and overnights. To register, contact Hattie Nestel at 978-790-3074 or hattieshalom@verizon.net.

UPCOMING

February 10	Reading Aloud for Grownups – Janet & Bo Henderson
February 25	Fashion and Fiction – Library Program
March 9	Reading Aloud for Grownups – Dee Waterman & Richard Trousdell
March 31	Weird Massachusetts – Library Program
April 13	Reading Aloud for Grownups – Genie Casey & Monica Winters
May 5	Feasting in Literature – Library Program

New Salem Newsletter Policy

This monthly newsletter is a volunteer service sponsored by the New Salem Recreation Committee of the Town of New Salem. It promotes community events and town notices.

It does not run ads for products or services.

To subscribe to this newsletter, email newsalemnews@gmail.com

Visit the town's www.newsalem-massachusetts.org for more information about our town.